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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/12/2007  
LAST UPDATED 2/16/2007 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR Robinson

SHORT TITLE UNM Alliance for Transportation Institute SB 390

ANALYST Moser

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

NM Department of Higher Education (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 390 appropriates \$150,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) to pay for continuing projects at the Alliance for Transportation Institute.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED indicates that the Alliance for Transportation Research Institute is a nationally recognized research entity of UNM. During the last ten years of operation the institute has become an acknowledged leader in the field of transportation research. Two examples of research initiatives include the coordination of interagency transportation in support of welfare-to-work programs,

access to jobs, the delivery of healthcare and other life services, and other research regarding problems of rural and urban mobility. In addition, they have worked on innovative public outreach to stakeholders with information and materials they need about specific, complex issues such as the transport of radioactive wastes, as well as the general impacts that the transportation of goods and people have upon the quality of air, water, habitat, and land. More recently they began to expand the scope of research to include environmental and health research and demonstration projects, including those related to sustainable development and healthy communities.

A taskforce has been developed to advance knowledge of precautionary principles, which focus on the idea that not all risk is measurable. The work of this taskforce has been on addressing problems that are not necessarily quantifiable but that have a wide range of implications such as work zone safety (in 2005 there were nine workforce safety related deaths in New Mexico) and sustainable development. This appropriation would provide for the continuing work of the Precautionary Principles Taskforce and supplement the staffing and research budget at the Alliance for Transportation Research Institute.

This request was not submitted by the University of New Mexico to HED and is not included in the department's funding recommendation for FY08.

GM/mt